(a) whether it is a fact that IRS-P4 satellite had failed to warn Meteorological authorities against the cyclone in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any investigation has been done on this aspect; and

(d) the steps initiated for rectifying the snag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONER'S WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. IRS-P4 (Oceansat-1) satellite is meant for applications other than warning cyclones such as providing the biological and physical parameters of the Ocean. IRS-P4 has been working well and carrying out its intended functions. Warning on the cyclone in Orissa was provided by the relevant satellite system viz. INSAT system, through India Meteorological Department.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Scarcity of Milk and Milk products in Orissa

1524. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of milk and milk products in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether there is a sharp decline in the milk production in that State;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether there is also scarcity of fodders for cattles in that State; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to remove the scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Per capita availability of milk in Orissa is far below from the average National per capita availability.

(b) No, Sir. The milk production in Orissa has increased at compounded rate of 4.66% per annum during 1992-93 to 1996-97.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 75.675 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for feed and fodder development during 1995-96. State Government is taking all necessary steps for raising seasonal crops in different areas of the state through different schemes under fodder development programme. The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) in all the districts are also providing the assistance for the fodder development.

Handling cost of Horticulture Produce

1525. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post harvest handling accounts for 37 per cent at different levels of handling of horticulture produce; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Although no scientific study has been carried out to assess the post harvest handling losses of horticulture produce, it is estimated that losses vary between 8 to 37 per cent in various crops in different stages after harvest, as per the Report of the Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Exports for the Ninth Plan.

(b) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) under the Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Scheme of Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticultural Crops under which financial assistance in the form of soft loan is provided for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities including pre-cooling units/cool store and cold storages. The National Cooperative Development Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture also